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There is a certain amount of repetition which becomes unpleasant when employed in similes and striking expressions; occasionally there is statement which might better be conjecture; the name of the capital of Bosnia is given two different ways (pp. 244, 256); it is scarcely correct to say that Serbia accepted absolutely eight of the ten demands of Austria (p. 258); the spelling of such names as Skobelev and Sazonoff would be nearer the Russian if in translation the final consonant were not doubled (pp. 124, 261).

EDWARD RAYMOND TURNER.

*The Great War.* By GEORGE H. ALLEN, Ph.D. With an Introduction by WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT. Volume I. *Causes of and Motives for.* (Philadelphia: George Barrie's Sons. 1915. Pp. xxx, 377.)

DURING the earlier months of the European war writing about it was necessarily for the most part hasty, partizan, and controversial; but with the lapse of some time and the continuous and increasing interest of so many people, better books have begun to appear. For the general causes of the conflict there are now Gibbons's *New Map of Europe* and Bullard's *Diplomacy of the Great War*; for the immediate causes and diplomatic correspondence Headlam's *History of Twelve Days* and Stowell's *Diplomacy of the War of 1914*. These books are informing and all of them meritorious, but each deals with some particular aspects of the entire subject. The publishers of the present work have designed a comprehensive popular history, beginning with the general and immediate causes of strife, which are dealt with in the volume here reviewed, to be followed by other volumes narrating the incidents and results of the struggle.

The publishers have executed their part of the task very creditably. The book is handsomely printed and finely made, though somewhat heavy to hold; and it is illustrated with nearly a hundred maps and photographs, some of the former, like that of the Bagdad railway and the distribution of Mohammedan populations, being excellent, many of the latter representing Teutonic personages. But it must be observed that Mr. Taft, whose name appears so prominently on the cover, has only contributed a pleasant introduction of a few pages, and that the publishers ascribe the author to the department of history in the University of Pennsylvania, with which institution his connection has been rather slight.

In the opinion of the reviewer Dr. Allen has done his work well. His account of the recent history of the world is, I think, the best brief account which has been written, and probably as useful as any which the general reader can obtain; though the Dual Alliance, the development of the Entente Cordiale, and the meaning and importance of Pan-Germanism are treated in a manner inferior to what one might expect. The character and purpose of the volume make it impossible that the

story of the immediate causes of the war and the interplay of diplomacy in the last critical days should be as large or as minutely critical as the accounts given in Price, Stowell, or Headlam; but the narrative is very clear and fair, and apparently no happening of importance has been omitted. Here the author makes his contribution when he suggests the decisive importance of the acceptance or refusal by Austria of M. Sazonof's formula of July 30. The author defends the course followed by England, and affixes to Germany the blame for violation of the neutrality of Belgium. The direct responsibility for the great catastrophe he ascribes principally to the Teutonic nations, though he is less certain that they deliberately provoked a conflict than that they saw in the circumstances of 1914 a favorable opportunity to obtain without fighting that which they desired. In controverted matters both positions are properly stated, and he is at all times eminently fair and judicial.

Not only is the author a careful and capable writer, but an evident acquaintance with the places and peoples of Europe gives value and reality to his descriptions. I have noticed especially his comments upon Alsace-Lorraine, the account of the world's resources of iron and the position of Germany in respect thereof, the remark about the attitude of Germans toward foreign languages, the immense importance of German reforms in the nineteenth century, which he thinks only less momentous than those directly inspired by the French Revolution, the *bloc* in French politics, the electoral system in Prussian government, the progress of German agriculture, the relations of Germany and Russia in the early part of the Russo-Japanese War, the description of German newspapers, the estimate of the commercial importance of Constantinople as compared with its strategic value, the purpose of Abdul Hamid, the relations of Croatia with Hungary, political parties in Italy, and the meaning and consequences of militarism wherever it becomes a dominating force. The account of the negotiations between Austria and Italy in 1914-1915 is excellent.

The unpleasant but necessary task of pointing out errors is not in this case an onerous one. The Triple Alliance was formed in 1882 not in 1883 (p. 31); the English electoral reform law of 1867 extended the franchise not merely to the better class of laborers in the towns (p. 35) but to tenant farmers as well; I doubt whether decrease in German emigration had any connection with the growth of the German colonial empire (p. 122); "pan" is not a preposition (p. 125); the communication of Baron Greindl is not quite correctly summarized (p. 262); *Novoye Vremya* (p. 195) and the names of Count Szápáry (p. 233) and of M. Sazonof (p. 240) are not correctly spelled.

The writing is always clear, usually pleasant, and sometimes good, though there are not wanting slips and awkward expressions. If the remaining volumes are as good as this first one, both author and publishers will have performed a welcome service.

EDWARD RAYMOND TURNER.